

INCOMING AIRGRAM - Department of State

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Action
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Date Sent: November 19, 1958

FROM: Amembassy BELGRADE

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: G - 154

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VICH, ALois

Reference 22 CFR 42.42(a)(27)(28)(29) Appendix A Note 4.2.

CIA

First and second cousins of Andrija Artukovic have applied for nonimmigrant visas "to visit for few months" Andrija's other first cousin, Vido Artukovic, currently residing in Los Angeles. Embassy sees no objection approval applications. However, view wide public interest attendant Artukovic court proceedings in California, request Department's comments prior to issuance visas. Prompt reply would be appreciated since applicants desire enter United States "as soon as possible." Following background information obtained from interviews with applicants:

While first cousin Marko Artukovic has resided continuously in Bosnian village since prior to World War II, second cousin Vid Artukovic (born 1925) spent two years with USTASHI forces in Croatia from 1943-1945. However, Vid contends he was "ordinary infantryman" only fighting Partisans under orders from his German and Croatian officers. In 1945 Vid was captured by Partisans when fleeing to Italy and after eleven days in concentration camp was sent to Macedonia for 30 months service with Yugoslav Army. At conclusion service, he returned to Bosnian village where he has since resided.

Applicants stated that only purpose of Los Angeles trip is to visit Vido, adding that in course of visit they would undoubtedly see Andrija. They denied any intention of participating in court proceedings or in newspaper or radio activities there.

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

Yugoslavs

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Yugoslavs apparently do not object to their travel since applicants are in possession of Yugoslav passports valid for two years which had been issued on November 14, 1958. (Vid stated Yugoslavs had denied his passport application in 1956.). Also Vid's statement that he has never been tried for any war activities (a statement which will be documented prior to issuance visas) seems to show he was not involved in USTASHI atrocities as is alleged concerning Andrija's activities.

Vid Artukovic: Born September 26, 1925 at
Klobuk, Yugoslavia

Marko Artukovic: Born 1897 at Klobuk,
Yugoslavia

O'SHAUGHNESSY

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Neil C. McManus

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